



Tioga County Worksession Minutes **February 19, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.**

Legislators Present:

Legislator Aronstam
Legislator Brown (*arrived at 10:01 a.m.*)
Legislator Bunce
Legislator Cantella
Legislator Ciotoli
Legislator Monell
Legislator Rose
Legislator Standinger (*arrived at 10:09am*)

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Flesher

Guests:

William Else (*departed at 10:30 a.m.*)
Matt Freeze, Morning Times (*departed at 10:30 a.m.*)
Linsey Madison, WENY (*departed at 10:30 a.m.*)

Staff present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Jackson D. Bailey II, County Administrator
Breige Graven, Deputy Legislative Clerk (*departed at 10:30 a.m.*)
Linda Parke, Personnel Officer
Elaine Jardine, County Planning Director (*departed at 10:03 a.m.*)
Sara Zubalsky-Peer, County Planning Director Trainee (*departed at 10:03 a.m.*)
Christine Freyvogal, Paralegal (*departed at 10:30 a.m.*)

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Monell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with a **Public Hearing on Annual Agricultural District Inclusion.**

Legislative Clerk Haskell took roll call and read the legal notice as published in the Tioga County designated newspapers. With no further comments or questions, the Public Hearing adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Call Meeting to Order: Legislative Chair Monell opened the **Second Special Legislature Meeting of 2026** at 10:05 a.m. for Legislature consideration of the following:

- ***Calling on Governor Hochul to Declare an “Energy State of Emergency” Related to Escalating Electricity Costs***
- ***Authorizing the Re-Establishment of 2025 Funds in the 2026 Budget for the Purchase of Ballistic Resistant Body Armor***
- ***Re-Establish Prior Year 2025 ARPA Operating & Capital Obligations in the 2026 Budget***
- ***Authorizing a Budget Amendment to Recognize Adult-Use Cannabis Revenue and Appropriate Funds for Distribution to Towns and Villages***
- ***Amend Employee Handbook: Revise Section IV. Personnel Rules; Subsection S. Entitled Remote Work Policy-Pilot Program, IV. General Policy and V. Expectations to Permit Temporary Remote Work Arrangements for Operational Disruptions***

Legislative Clerk Haskell took roll call and Legislator Bunce led in the prayer, pledge and voting process. Special Meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m. with regular worksession immediately following.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Brown, seconded by Legislator Rose, the February 5th, 2026 minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Items: Currently, there are no action items.

FOIL Appeal Hearing – County Attorney DeWind: Moving into a FOIL Appeal Hearing at 10:19a.m., County Attorney DeWind presented two appeals of FOIL requests for review and consideration by the Legislature. –Attorney DeWind presented the original requests and reasons for denial. On the first matter, on motion of Legislator Brown, seconded by Legislator Aronstam, the Legislators agreed to approve the FOIL request on an unanimous roll call vote. On the second matter, on motion of Legislator Standinger, seconded by Legislator Cantella, the Legislators agreed to granting a limited approval for just the portions not protected by the Social Services Law, which is the training materials for caseworkers. County Attorney DeWind will draft letters for Chair Monell’s signature for mailing to the appellant and the NYS Committee on Open Government.

Executive Session: Legislators Aronstam, Brown, Bunce, Cantella, Ciotoli, Monell, Rose and Standinger were in attendance along with Legislative Clerk Haskell, County Attorney DeWind, and County Administrator Bailey. Motion by Legislator Bunce, seconded by Legislator Brown, to move into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations at 10:30 a.m. Motion carried.

Motion by Legislator Brown, seconded by Legislator Bunce to adjourn Executive Session at 10:45 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, March 5th, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Breige Graven
Deputy Legislative Clerk